

In the News

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Message from the Mayor

It's that time of year again when the weather turns colder, the holidays approach, and we look for ways to help the less fortunate. Hypothermia season began November 1 and lasts until March 31. I hope all District of Columbia residents publicize and use the District Department of Human Services Hypothermia Hotline number: 1 (800) 535-7252. It's a one-stop resource to help bring homeless people in our city in from the cold.

We'll be working hard in the coming weeks to ensure the Hypothermia Hotline number is promoted through print and broadcast public service announcements and through communication with downtown business owners, faith-based leaders, and Advisory Neighborhood Commission representatives. District residents can help save lives by calling the Hypothermia Hotline to report the locations of homeless persons.

When you call 1 (800) 535-7252, a van will be dispatched to pick up the homeless person and take him or her to a shelter. The vans will also distribute blankets, warm articles of clothing, and warm drinks to homeless people who refuse to be taken to a shelter on cold days and nights.

With the holidays upon us, and Thanksgiving already passed, I'd also like to take an opportunity to remind District of Columbia residents of how important it is to help our neighbors. Remember to brighten someone else's day by spending time with them, sharing a warm meal, or making a contribution to an organization that cares for those who are less fortunate.

We all need to slow down, count our blessings and cherish those around us—our family, neighbors, and especially our seniors and young people. I encourage our citizens to look out for each other, to check on elderly neighbors and those who may need extra assistance during the holidays.

The great humanitarian Albert Schweitzer once said, "One does not have to be an angel in order to be a saint." For our readers interested in getting involved with an organization during the holidays, there is still time to sign up. The good news is that first-timers can do just about anything. You can volunteer through Greater DC Cares, our local volunteer center, or contact an organization directly to offer your time and talent.

When your volunteering gets underway, and you have a positive story to report about your experience, I encourage you to nominate yourself or a neighbor for the Mayor's Community Service Award, given monthly to one adult and one youth. If you would like to nominate a youth or adult for the monthly award, visit www.serve.dc.gov for nomination information, or call (202) 727-9461.

If you're interested in volunteering to help people during the holidays, call Greater DC Cares at (202) 777-4440 or 1 (800) Volunteer, or visit www.dc-cares.org. Finally, when the holiday season passes, it's important to remember that volunteering and the spirit of service continue year-round.



New York Avenue Metrorail Station Opening

November 20 was another great day for transit and economic development in the District of Columbia. I joined local officials and members of the Northeast community to dedicate the New York Avenue-Florida Avenue-Gallaudet University Metrorail station—the first station to be built between two existing and previously operating stations (Union Station and Rhode Island Avenue) in the original 103-mile Metro system.

The new Metrorail station will create opportunities for new jobs, economic development and improved neighborhood access to the region. There is real stimulus for developing adjacent properties along First Street, from L Street to New York Avenue.

The station will also serve the existing Capital City Market, Gallaudet University and the new Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms headquarters under construction next door. And neighborhood residents can use the station to get access to jobs, education, entertainment and shopping wherever Metro goes.

By the year 2020, growth in the area will bring as many as 10,000 daily passengers to the station.

The station was made possible by a unique partnership among DC, the federal government and private landowners. Private landowners agreed to contribute funds from a special property tax district equal to the amount of federal funding for the project. Landowners also contributed land for construction of the project. This partnership worked so well, I think it will serve as a model for other transit projects in the future!

Another model for future projects is the Metropolitan Branch Trail (MBT), which sits directly above the station. Just like the Red Line, the trail passes over M Street and Florida Avenue, and under New York Avenue—providing traffic-free travel for cyclists and pedestrians.

When the Met Branch trail opens in December, it will greatly improve access to the station from nearby neighborhoods, such as Eckington, as well as the new McKinley High School. When the entire MBT is finished, it will connect this point to Brookland and Silver Spring, Union Station and the National Mall—just like the Red Line itself.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the residents in the Metro station's surrounding neighborhoods. Their wholehearted support was critical in obtaining federal and other endorsements needed to expedite the project, and they will see their efforts rewarded by the improvements this station will bring to their communities in the years ahead.

Community Profile Kevin O'Connell

Ward 1 resident Kevin O'Connell uses his knowledge of computers and bicycles to help a local non-profit that trains young people to be catalysts for meaningful and sustainable change in their neighborhoods. For the past two years, Kevin has spent hundreds of hours providing computer support and volunteering for Shaw EcoVillage.

"He has been indispensable to our organization," said Shaw EcoVillage Outreach and Development Coordinator Noel Petrie. "Kevin has made a tremendous difference."

Kevin volunteered to upgrade and integrate the organization's computer systems and has since become the IT person for the non-profit, always on call to give computer advice and technical support free of charge. He also serves in the youth bike shop, Chain Reaction, and helps with monthly youth bike rides.



Shaw EcoVillage, founded in 1998, comprises two main programs. In the EcoDesign Corps, young people develop leadership skills to create innovative solutions to real-life community issues. At Chain Reaction, youth learn how to repair and recycle used bikes so more people can have safe, affordable and pollution-free transportation. To learn more about Shaw EcoVillage visit www.shawecovillage.com.

Kevin is the April 2004 adult winner of the Mayor's Community Service Award sponsored by Serve DC. If you would like to nominate a youth or adult for the monthly award, visit www.serve.dc.gov for nomination information, or call (202) 727-9461.



Anacostia Rail Groundbreaking

November 13, 2004, was a great day for the future of transit in the nation's capital. I joined residents and transit officials in Anacostia to break ground on the first light rail transit project in the District since the last streetcar route was abandoned in our city more than 40 years ago. In cooperation with Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), we're constructing a 2.7-mile Anacostia light rail demonstration project on the unused CSX Anacostia railroad right-of-way.

The project will consist of six stations from Bolling Air Force Base to Pennsylvania Avenue, Southeast. The light rail demonstration will serve the Anacostia area including Barry Farm, Anacostia Metro Station, Old Anacostia, the Fairlawn neighborhood and Anacostia High School.

The Anacostia light rail project will meet several needs that have been identified for the area, including:

- Access to jobs through improved transit service to Anacostia, downtown DC, and other locations in the metropolitan area via the Anacostia Metro Station
- Enhanced mobility and connections to the city and the region for the high percentage of people living in the corridor who depend on public transportation
- Support for economic development, including the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative and the Anacostia Gateway project

Our vision is to expand light rail from the Anacostia route across the river to M Street, the Navy Yard, the Southwest Waterfront and, yes... to a new Major League Baseball Stadium!

We envision a citywide light rail system of 35-plus miles of improved transit routes. When the light rail system is built, it will link Anacostia to other key parts of our city, providing access to jobs, supporting economic development, and expanding transit services for citizens.

Soon we'll be able to say that DC's transit future began on November 13, 2004, in Anacostia!

Skyland Town Hall Meeting

Earlier this month, the National Capital Revitalization Corp. (NCRC) hosted a day-long town hall meeting to obtain input into the retail mix and design for the revitalized Skyland Shopping Center. Approximately 100 residents from Wards 7 and 8 participated in a series of table discussions and polling questions designed to obtain and synthesize residents' input. The two major areas of discussion focused on retail mix and the design of the new center.

For more than 15 years, residents of Wards 7 and 8 have sought the redevelopment of Skyland. I'm proud to say their wait is over. In partnership with NCRC, we've secured funds for redevelopment. Our DC Council has approved the revitalization. NCRC is beginning to assemble the land, and our development team is in negotiations with anchor tenants.

Last week's meeting was a great chance for residents to shape the future of the shopping center. Our recent efforts in this community include a facade improvement program administered by the Marshall Heights Community Development Corp. This unique program has serviced 48 storefronts with a District investment of \$600,000. In addition, through our DC Department of Transportation alone, we've funded:

- A Pennsylvania Avenue Road study—\$221,000
- Marshall Heights Streetscape project—more than \$200,000
- Extension of Minnesota Avenue—\$212,000

And, in Ward 7 alone, we've invested more than \$160 million since 1999 to produce more than 3,700 units of affordable housing.

I appreciate the input of citizens who attended the forum. Their input will help shape the new Center. It will be used to attract the quality retailers and service providers they expect and deserve. Wards 7 and 8 have a combined buying power of more than \$500 million. It's high time we keep that purchasing power in the District of Columbia.



Sixth Annual Public-Private Partnership Conference

The Mayor's Office of Partnerships and Grants Development (OPGD), in conjunction with the Washington Council of Agencies (WCA), recently announced its Sixth Annual Public-Private Partnership Conference. This year's theme is "Embracing, Strengthening, and Sustaining Partnerships: The Reality of It All."

The conference will be held on Monday, December 13, 2004, 8 am to 4 pm, at the Washington Convention Center—801 Mt. Vernon Place, Washington, DC.

Workshops will include:

- Fear Factor: Preparing the New WRAG Common Grant Application
- Go Directly to Jail: Don't Play Games with Grant Money
- He Said, She Said: Establishing Partnership Roles Through a Memorandum of Understanding and Other Documents
- Top 10 Tips for Running Successful Non-profit Organizations
- The Weakest Link: What You Always Wanted to Know About Indirect Cost Rates But Were Afraid to Ask

There will be opportunities to network with representatives from DC, Maryland, and Virginia governments, as well as the federal government, local foundations, and non-profit and faith-based organizations. In addition, an extensive exhibit hall will have information on the latest technology and capacity-building opportunities for conferees. Interested exhibitors should contact Jeff Kost, WCA, at (202) 457-0450.

The cost for the conference is \$55, which includes a continental breakfast and lunch. To register by check with WCA, call (202) 457-0450 or register online at: www.regonline.com/18083.

For additional information on the conference, contact:

- OPGD at (202) 727-8900 or Pat.Henry@dc.gov
- WCA at (202) 457-0450 or armindav@wcanonprofits.org

Sales Tax Holiday

This is a brief reminder that beginning November 26 shoppers in our city receive a break when they make purchases at District stores during the District's Sales Tax Holiday. This tax-free shopping period continues through Sunday, December 5, 2004. During those 10 days, clothing, shoes and other items costing \$100 or less per item will be exempt from all sales taxes.

At-large Councilmember Carol Schwartz introduced legislation, which was passed by the Council, to establish two permanent sales tax holidays each year—one each August to coincide with back-to-school-shopping and one each November to coincide with holiday shopping.

The weeks following Thanksgiving are very busy shopping days in the nation's capital, so it's a great time for residents and visitors to take advantage of the discounts. Anyone who buys clothes, shoes or other items can save, as long as what they are buying costs \$100 or less per item. A shopper could spend \$1,000 and pay no sales tax, as long as each exempt item costs \$100 or less.



District Activities



Mayor Williams toured the new New York Avenue Metro Station with Councilmember Jim Graham and Metro officials.



On November 16, Mayor Williams celebrated the DC United soccer team's victory in the Major League Soccer 2004 championship. The celebration was held at RFK Stadium.



Mayor Williams, Councilmembers Jack Evans, Harold Brazil and team officials announced November 22 that DC's baseball team would be named the Nationals.

Community News

- [Standard & Poor's Upgrades District's GO Bonds to 'A'](#)
- [Washington Nationals Selected as Name of DC Major League Baseball Team](#)
- [Comprehensive Plan Revision Website Launched](#)

[View All News Releases](#)

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 11/30 | Department of Housing and Community Development Public Hearing
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Harriet Tubman Elementary School
3101 13th Street, NW |
| 12/2 | Department of Housing and Community Development Public Hearing
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
DHCD
801 North Capitol Street NE
9th Floor Board Room |
| 12/4 & 12/5 | Georgia Avenue – Petworth Holiday Fair
10 am – 8 pm
3646 Georgia Avenue NW
Corner of Georgia Avenue and New Hampshire Avenue |
| 12/7 | Department of Housing and Community Development Public Hearing
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Marshall Heights
Community Development Corporation
3939 Benning Road, NE |

